

# Flathead Emergency Communications Center



Flathead County, Montana

Elizabeth Brooks, Director  
Brian Chernish, 911 Technology Program Manager  
Jack Spillman, Communications System Manager

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APCO  
351 N. Williamson Blvd.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

To Whom it May Concern;

As the Communications System Manager for the Flathead County 911 Center, I wish to add Flathead County's objections to to the auctioning off of the Public Safety 4.9 wireless Band by the FCC.

Flathead County relies on 6 links of the 4.9 PS band, and these links are absolutely critical in communicating to the remote mountain sites to link and serve all wireless radio traffic in the area. These locations are very remote, and have no other means to be managed by the 911 center. Most of the sites do not even have wired cable to the communications locations even if the County wished to utilize expensive wired connections, which are too slow.

The County would be placed in an impossible situation of having to purchase brand new equipment, find clear licenses in the exhausted 6 Ghz band, and have the equipment installed at a cost the public safety community does not have funding for. These microwave links are the only way to provide communications to the local and state Law Enforcement, fire, and medical units that serve the public.

This problem is not unique to just Flathead County, this proposed decision to auction off the 4.9 band will effect almost every single county on Montana. The county to our west uses 4.9, to the south, Lake county uses 4.9, and I think it would be easier to count the county's that do not use it. The FCC should be more concerned about protecting the public in the emergency services world, rather than working so hard to selling off spectrum to corporations. I find it hard to understand how the needs of speculative wireless providers could be considered more important than the safety of the citizens the FCC serves.

Sincerely;

Jack A. Spillman  
Communications Systems Manager

625 Timberwolf Parkway • Kalispell MT 59901

Office: 406/ 758-2117 • Cell: 406 / 260-3210 • Fax: 406/758-5562 • Email: [jspillman@flathead911.mt.gov](mailto:jspillman@flathead911.mt.gov)